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A Few Hens

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., APRIL 15, 1898.

NO. 10.

A FEW HENS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.
To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.
A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Get to work.

April showers.

Keep things neat.

Sweep down the cobwebs.

Are you subject to spring fever?

Peter Reckless is a friend of lice.

Kerosene the roosts and nest boxes.

Did you plant fruit trees this spring?

"Love lightens labor" in the hen yard.

A mild winter makes an early louse crop.

Sow all the spare land to some poultry crop.

Set the broody hens—give them a needed rest.

Spade or plow up the yards every week or two.

Paint and whitewash make attractive improvements.

Cleanliness makes chicks thrive and drives out vermin.

Go gently among the flocks. A bad scare hurts the egg crop.

Put out a big crop of onions and lettuce for the young chicks.

The wise poultryman is turning the cheap eggs into chickens.

Study up a plan to furnish more shade during the hot months.

Fill up the low ground in the poultry runs. Beware of pools of water.

Clean out the houses, and fumigate liberally by burning sulphur in them.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Busy Times on the Farm—Eggs for Hatching—The Chicks are Again With Us—Improved System in Feeding Chicks—The Hens are Hard at Work—The New Feed and Cook House.

Business is rather brisk on the farm just now. We put a small advertisement in A FEW HENS, and one in *Farm-Poultry*, of eggs for hatching from our heavy laying stock, and the orders are coming in every day. Besides, we are doing considerable hatching with hens, and have heated up two of our incubators (we improvised a temporary place to run our machines, until our regular incubator house is completed) which we will shortly run on duck eggs.

So between filling our orders for eggs for hatching, and several regular customers a week for eggs for table use, and taking care of the hens and their young, and the general care of the breeding fowls and ducks, it keeps our young man pretty busy—and we have to occasionally lend a helping hand.

At the present rate of progress, we believe that at the end of 1898 we can give a report of our two acre experiment that will astonish our readers.

We are having a great many visitors—subscribers to A FEW HENS—who are watching every step we are making in the hope that they themselves may be able to follow the same footsteps. All our work will be an open book. There are no secrets, and we want to tell all we do, *how* we do it, and *why*. It is gratifying to know that our efforts in this line are being appreciated.

We have made some changes in feeding young chicks this year, and so far are more than pleased with the good results we are having. Last year we fed rolled oats moistened with milk or water the first ten days, and H-O Poultry Food after that. This year we have concluded to give F. P. C. Chick Manna a trial, as a food for the first ten days of the chicks' life. The claims for this Manna, made by the manufacturer, F. P. Cassel, Lansdale, Pa., are that it comprises "a variety of nutritious food and health preserving properties, so proportioned and combined to be peculiarly adapted to promote health, quick growth and strong development." Our experience so far with the food makes us believe that the claims are honest and not extravagant. We never had livelier chicks for the first ten days than we had this year.

After ten days feeding of Manna, we give half Manna and half H-O Poultry Feed for a few days,

after which we give H-O feed exclusively. From the start we throw a handful of H-O Scratching Feed two or three times a day, to the hen and her young. This scratching feed has such a variety of grains in it, much of which are small, that both the chicks and the hen can find something to their liking. After the chicks are ten days old, we add a teaspoonful of charcoal to a quart of soft feed, every other day. We neglected to mention that when feeding the H-O Poultry Feed we gradually added Pioneer Clover Meal to the mash. We consider this clover meal a regular God-send to the chick business. To a certain extent it means green food, and besides it combines bone, lime, etc., which goes far toward rapidly developing the young.

Our laying stock are fed half H-O Poultry Food and half Pioneer Clover Meal; H-O Scratching Feed at noon; and whole wheat at night. The way we are getting eggs show that the ration is just right.

Two or three times a week we shake up the bedding in our duck pens, separating the manure from the unsoled bedding. This bedding we scatter thickly in the yards of our laying hens, giving the ducks fresh litter. It is wonderful how the hens do exercise in this stuff. We scatter a few handfuls (about one handful for every two fowls) of H-O Scratching Feed among the litter at noon, and they keep up exercising until time for evening feed. Then at night we scatter wheat among the litter in the scratching pens, and they have work for the morning.

We are at present at work upon our new feed house. When completed it will be equipped with bins, tables and mixing troughs. It will also contain such machines as bone mills, charcoal mill, root cutter, feed cooker, green food cutter, etc. It will have all the latest machinery of use upon a small poultry farm. In our next issue we expect to give details in full.

The chick runs, as illustrated in our December issue, are being filled up with hens and their young, and before another issue of A FEW HENS we hope to announce that our Prairie State outdoor brooders will be likewise filled with ducklings and chicks. We want to turn out all the stock we can, and for that purpose will use incubators and setting hens the entire summer. In fact, we intend hatching the entire year round. It is a belief of ours that that is the only way to make our two acre plant a success. What we lack in territory we must make up in

output. After all a *large* poultry farm is not measured by the amount of land, buildings or stock kept, but the amount of product that is actually marketed.

The \$5 Champion Brooder, manufactured by J. A. Bennett & Sons, Gouverneur, New York, is the latest addition to the "machinery" on the farm. We are very well pleased with its appearance, and will note it more fully after we have given it a trial, which we hope soon to do.

We expected to more fully note the Granite State Feed Cooker in this issue—of which mention was made in our February number—but as we were delayed by bad weather in completing our new cook and feed house in time, the write-up must be necessarily delayed until next month.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Eggs Are Cheap—The Weight of Eggs—Heavy Laying Wyandottes and Brahmams—A Novel Nest Box.

Mary had a little hen;
'Twas feminine and queer.
It laid like smoke wheu eggs were cheap,
And quit when eggs were dear.
—Rural Northwest.

Eggs, like beef, should be sold by the pound. It costs about a cent a piece to produce eggs. A fresh egg will nearly always sink in water. The mild weather sent down the price of eggs. Don't neglect the hens because eggs are cheap. The pigeon-sized eggs are generally the last of a litter.

Eggs should be gathered several times a day to prevent being broken in the nest.

The business hen gave such a large crop of eggs during winter that she has naturally slackened down in her output while the cheap prices prevail.

The weight of hens' eggs range from fifteen to twenty-four ounces per dozen, says the *American Stock-Keeper*. A weight of 22 1-2 ounces may be taken as a fair average for good sized eggs, although a weight of four ounces is not unknown for single specimens.

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., writes that he has, all told, 118 Wyandottes (Whites and Silvers) hens and pullets, and for the first twenty-one days in March received 1410 eggs. Thirty-nine hens are in one house, which is against their doing well, and twelve are setting, and four others were setting early in the month. Got eighty eggs one day, and seventy or over, nine days in succession.

In our last issue we stated that the Brahma hen which, on Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., laid 195 eggs in a year, was a Felch hen. Mr. Silberstein, the proprietor, protests against that assertion, claiming that it is no more Felch than it is Autocrat, Duke of York, or any of the half dozen other strains which are the foundation of Hartnest strain. We gave the information as we got it from a private correspondent.

A. J. Silberstein, of Hartnest Farm, writes *A FEW HENS* as follows: "Don't guess about your best layers—know them. Average laying of pens gives no information. The eggs you set may be from the poorest layers in that pen. Do you know that the infertile eggs you test out are all laid by three or four hens? It's a fact. 'Spot them and pot them.' The Eureka nest box will save years of time and dollars in money. The inventor of this box, in a private letter, reports that he receives from eight to twelve orders daily. Instructions for building these nests can be had from Mr. Silberstein. For terms and further particulars see his advertisement in this issue.

Rhode Island Reds

are unexcelled for beauty and utility. Hardy, great layers, and fine poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$2.00 per 30. A. E. CUMMINGS, Hudson, N. H.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints on Fattening and Shipping to Market—How to Prepare Carcasses to Make them Attractive.

Dry-pick the legs before scalding.

Labeling poultry is offering a guarantee.

Food for fattening should be finely ground.

A neatly dressed carcass at once attracts the buyer.

Capon are still in demand in most of the city markets.

Cockerels with spurs are classed among old cocks in market.

As a general thing broiler prices are better this month than last.

In scalding, do not allow the heads or feet to get in the water.

The head of a fowl getting in scalding water gives it a sickly look.

Never use straw, cloth or paper in packing dressed poultry for shipment.

In packing dressed poultry turn the heads of the birds back under the wing.

"Beef" Wyandottes may not suit the *fancy*, but they meet a rich reward in the markets.

The *Maine Farmer* says there are dollars waiting for up-to-date men in market poultry.

For scalding poultry, the water should be as near the boiling point as possible, without boiling.

Cornmeal ground almost to a powder, and mixed with milk, is a favorite food in fattening roasting fowls.

For the Chicago and western markets, either the dry picking or the scalding methods can be employed—the latter selling best to home trade.

"Plumping" is done by dipping the fowls ten seconds in water nearly or quite boiling hot, and then immediately in cold water. Hang in a cool place until the animal heat is entirely out.

First-class stock is stock well fattened so that the breast bone does not stick out like the keel of a boat; yellow meat; well dressed; cleanly picked, not roughed up or torn, clear of pin feathers and no dirt on legs and feet.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Prolific business birds. Standard points. Eggs after April 15th, \$1.00 per sitting. Incubator eggs \$5.00 per 100. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

190 Was Average Egg Yield last year of my S. C. Black Minorcas, selected for business and beauty from the Garrison and Wood strains. Eggs and Stock. GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

Whitney's Super-Carbolate of Lime. The old reliable insecticide and disinfectant Powder. Of special value for use in stable, dog kennels, and poultry houses. No vermin will live where used.

I have used this preparation in my henneries for the past two seasons and find that it fully equals the claims that you make for it. Its free use in the nest boxes obviates almost entirely any necessity for direct application to the fowls, while its use on the platforms completely neutralizes all unpleasant odors. R. H. COWLES, Wallingford, Conn.

Send for Circulars. E. WHITNEY & CO., Natick, Mass.

Barred and White P. Rocks, R. C. Brown Leghorns.

Eggs \$1 per 15. Hawkins and Hacker strains. They are prize winners and will produce prize winners. LEHMAN BROS., Elizabethville, Pa.

75 per ct. Guaranteed By NIAGARA FARM.

White Wyandottes, S. C. W. Leghorns, Light Brahmams, Mammoth Pekin Ducks. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100.

White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, Mammoth Embden Geese. Eggs 25 cents each.

All stock bred for business. If you want money makers give us a trial. Cut Clover \$1.00 per 100 lbs.

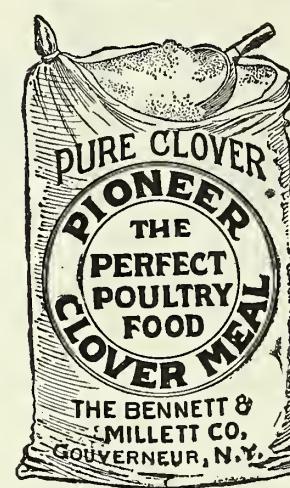
Reference—M. K. Boyer, editor of *A Few Hens*.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

Circular free.

Light Brahma Eggs, \$2.00 for 15; \$3.00 for 30. Five Acre Poultry Farm, Cheviot-on-Hudson, N. Y.

FOR SALE. Eggs from high scoring Cornish Indian Games and Barred Plymouth Rocks; also S. C. Brown Leghorns. All scoring from 90 to 94 points. Settings Cornish Indian Games, \$2.00 per 13; Barred Plymouth Rocks, \$1.50 per 13; S. C. Brown Leghorns, \$1.00 per 13. Three high scoring Ind. Game e'k's. for sale. Address all orders to CHAS. O. BARNES, 223 Normal Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

The GREATEST of LAYERS and New York Winners.

Eggs only \$1.00 per set; seventy-five eggs for \$5.00. Barred and White Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rose and S. C. Brown Leghorns, S. C. White Leghorns, Bl. Minorcas, Bl. Langshans, Big Pekin Ducks, Lt. Brahmams, Buff Leghorns. Eggs \$1.50 per set. W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

Bred for Heavy Laying.

Single Comb White Leghorns—Eggs, \$1.25 per 15.

Pekin Ducks—Eggs, \$1.25 per 11.

Only limited number of sittings will be sold. They are strictly business fowls. Orders booked now.

M. K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

Tilton's Power Job Print, NORTHWOOD RIDGE, N. H.

100 Envelopes, 100 Note Heads, 100 Tags, sent post-paid, for \$1.40. D. Brahma Eggs, \$1.00 per 13, including a year's sub. to poultry magazine.

Maple Farm Duck Yards.

The largest Pekin duck ranch in the Country. Twenty-five hundred mammoth breeding birds. We guarantee the fertility and safe delivery of our eggs. Send for catalogue to

JAMES RANKIN, South Easton, Mass.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO., Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

"Wayside Home" Poultry Yards

are noted for containing strains of fowls that are big layers. Pure breeds and plenty of eggs the motto. B. P. Rocks, Light Brahmams, Brown, Buff and White Leghorns. 13 eggs, \$1.50; 26, \$2.50; 39, \$3. W. E. BASSLER, Middleburgh, N. Y.

THE BEST CHICKENS TO

Raise for Profit are

The Old Oak "Light Brahmams."

They are bred only by me and are noted for big eggs, brown eggs and many eggs. Will sell only a limited number of sittings, so if you wish to procure eggs from this stock, you will kindly send in your orders early. No stock for sale. Eggs \$1 per 13. Kindly give plain shipping directions.

C. H. HERMANN, Govanstown, Md.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Dry Land Ducks—Duck Eggs in Market—Pointers on Feeding—The History of the Pekin—Good Laying Record.

The hen over-exercises ducklings. Do not try to hen-raise ducklings. The duck yards must be partly shaded. Never let the drinking water supply run out. Put clean bedding in the houses each evening. Never suddenly change the bill of fare for laying ducks. Second grade flour is used in the mash to make it more lumpy. A duck is not fully matured until about two and a half years old. Animal Meal is being adopted as the meat ration on many duck farms. Cut clover hay, scalded, is the best substitute we have for green food. No wild breed but the Mallard has recurved feathers in the tail of the male bird. The Mallard duck, it is said, is the original of the Rouen, Pekin and Cayuga varieties. The duck boom started about ten years ago. Today it is represented in every state in the Union.

In hatching duck eggs in an incubator, keep the ventilator slides open at least for the first week.

"A pig is modest and shy at his trough compared with a young duck," writes S. I. Hudgens, of Massachusetts.

During March, duck eggs were well sustained in the New York markets. Baltimore duck eggs brought 27 cents per dozen; Virginia, 24 to 26 cents; other Southern, 20 to 25 cents, against 10 to 12 cents a dozen for hen eggs.

In feeding, ducks require rather more bulky food than either chickens or turkeys, says *Farm, Field and Fireside*. Feed less corn or cornmeal, and give steamed clover hay, with turnips or potatoes, mashed and mixed up with bran.

Contrary to all former notions in regard to duck raising, these thousands and tens of thousands of Pekin ducks that are annually marketed in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, from New Jersey to the coast of Maine, never saw water only in drinking troughs. They grow much faster when kept out of the water, and if fed properly will average at ten weeks of age, ten pounds per pair.

A. P. B., Dedham, Mass., writes: "I notice in A FEW HENS an item in regard to your ducks starting laying on February 9th, and think they must have been behind the times. From a pen of 16 Rouen ducks hatched from June 9th to July 14th, I received an egg January 5th, 7th and 9th, and as high as eight some days since. My Pekins, hatched July 14th, started to lay February 21st." A very good report, but our correspondent did not read our item correctly. Our ducks began laying January 9th. One lot hatched the last of August began laying March 6th, and kept steady at it ever since.

No bird that comes onto the table nowadays, writes S. I. Hudgens, is more highly prized by the lover of choice viands than the Pekin duckling. As their name implies, they are of Asiatic origin, and were imported to this country from China something over twenty years ago. A traveler who saw them about the streets of Pekin, mistook them for small white geese at first, but upon finding that they were ducks, was so greatly impressed with their snow-white plumage and noble carriage that he secured some of their eggs. They were brought to Hong Kong and hatched, and in due time the birds were shipped in a vessel bound for New York. A number of the ducks died during the long sea voyage, but from the rest has sprung this popular breed that is now met with in nearly every state of the Union.

EGGS for hatching. Strictly Pure W. Wyandotte and W. P. Rocks. 500 grand birds. Average egg production 200 each per year. \$1 per 18; \$4 per 100. WEEKS & THOMPSON, Peterboro, N. H.

A COW PEA. Not only "northern grown" but northern bred, and worth its weight in gold. The only true seed. Enough for 1-8 acre. 50c. charges paid. No cheaper in any quantity. No free samples. LEROY ROMINES, Martinsville, Illinois.

Geese for Profit.

A Few Valuable Hints Gathered from the Experience of Geese Growers.

Geese are usually sold alive.

Never pick geese later than October. The goose sets best in a hidden nest. One acre for one hundred young geese. Too much grain is the cause of vertigo. Breeding geese should be rather thin in flesh. Will shearing geese take the place of plucking them? Four geese and two ganders should give 100 goslings.

The *Western Ploughman* says any farmer living one-fourth of a mile from neighbors may keep a flock of geese with profit.

It requires less corn to make a pound of goose than a pound of pork, and there is double the profit in it.

It requires about six weeks after picking geese to grow and ripen a new crop of feathers, says Mrs. W. W. Stevens.

According to the *New Hampshire Mirror*, old geese can be picked four times during the season, commencing about May 1st; goslings three times.

The *Canadian Breeder* says geese may be fed scalded meal and bran, mashed potatoes and meal, and wheat bran, ground beef scraps, meal and oatmeal scalded, chopped onions and water cresses.

When the fattening season arrives, says an experienced goose farmer, keep the geese shut away from bathing water, and feed barley meal, cornmeal and beef scraps, chopped celery, and keep in a subdued light for three or four weeks, when let out for a couple of days to enjoy the use of a pond. Then return to their clean quarters, and feed on barley

meal and milk, and chopped celery for two or three days, letting them go twenty-four hours before killing, and you will have a goose fit for a king.

Turkey Culture.

A Few Hints on General Care—How to Mark Turkeys.

Beware of the dog!

Quarantine all new stock.

"Tom" is the male turkey.

The male is an ardent lover.

Feed the young in clean dishes.

Medium-sized turkeys are best for breeding. Filth and decaying matter nourish certain germs for disease.

Rival male turkeys engage in deadly conflicts for supremacy.

Patience and carefulness are virtues in the turkey business.

Some turkey raisers claim that hot mashes are injurious to stock.

A plump young turkey, dressing from 8 to 15 pounds, is saleable at almost any season.

Mrs. B. G. Mackey, in the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, recommends a little extract of dogwood in the drinking water for turkeys having looseness of the bowels.

Samuel Cushman says: You mark your turkeys so that you can identify them, by clipping off one or more of their nails or tips of their toes as soon as they are hatched. Many different brands or marks may be made by this means. When mature turkeys thus marked are stolen and dressed, they may be identified if found, as the marks cannot be changed without showing the fresh mutilation. In some towns each raiser registers his turkey marks at the town clerk's office, as he does the brand of his sheep or cattle.

FISHERS ISLAND FARM,

FISHERS ISLAND, N. Y.

Headquarters for the Practical Business Fowls: Barred, Buff and White Plymouth Rocks, Cornish and White Indian Game, Pekin Ducks. Eggs for Hatching. Send for catalogue.

J. F. CRANGLE, Poultry Manager.

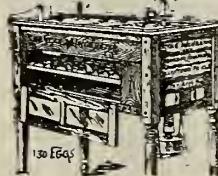


Patented Jan. 4, 1898.

The \$5.00 CHAMPION BROODER.

The only Practical Brooder on the market for outdoor and indoor use. Can be used in the fiercest snow storm outdoors equally as well as indoors. Beware of brooders having double floors and safety compartments, as we hold the exclusive patents on this style of brooder, and will prosecute all infringements. Top heat and three feet square. Send for catalogue. 100 chick size \$5.00.

J. A. BENNETT & SONS, Gouverneur, N. Y.



THE STAR INCUBATOR.

(Invention of G. A. MCFETRIDGE.)

Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.

Lowest Priced
First-class
'Hatcher' made.
130 EGGS

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

HATCH WITH THE MODEL EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.
Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating.
Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.

CHICKENS WITH THE WOODEN HEN

The Premier Green Bone Cutter

is fitted with BALL BEARINGS, which now makes Cutting Green Bones for fowls a very easy matter. Elegant illustrated catalogue, telling all about it, for stamp.

P. A. WEBSTER, . . . Box . . . CAZENOVIA, N. Y.

POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS
THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR
AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps. Address the Des Moines Incubator Co. 423 Iowa.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

The crowded condition of our advertising columns is good evidence that what we said about the benefits to be derived from advertising in A FEW HENS, must be so. From the first issue, our editions have never run less than 20,000 copies each month, and as these papers are circulated in new channels, and as the recipients are largely composed of people interested in poultry in a small way, who do not take poultry papers, we are opening up a field that is bound to be doubly valuable to advertisers.

Here is a case in point:

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Montgomery county, Pa., who is one of the best known breeders of thoroughbred poultry in the east, and who has tested the advertising columns of all the leading publications, writes:

"I have great faith in the future of A FEW HENS. I expect to use more space with you before very long, as I get more returns than from anything I have used since the old *Fancier's Journal* days."

The editor must ask the indulgence of his readers in delays in answering correspondence. For the past six weeks he has been fairly buried beneath a stack of letters of inquiry. Every mail brings them. These were answered in rotation as rapidly as possible, and yet many remain unanswered. We aim to answer all correspondence personally, as far as we are able, but should some have been missed, they will find replies to their questions in this issue.

The question if the special poultry culture course at the Rhode Island college paid, is answered by a pupil, F. L. Marion. We would like to give his opinion in full, but as A FEW HENS cannot spare that much space, it condenses as follows:

The first lecture was in chemistry, showing how to compute a balanced ration, and know why young growing stock need a certain feed, laying stock another certain food ration, and fattening stock another. Also that the cost of a food is determined as much by its food value as by its market price. In the subject of stock breeding were given the principles involved, and the influence of "heredity" and the value of "prepotency." Those who were scoffers at purebred stock for practical purposes, were shown the tendency of all stock to "strike back"

to a trait of some remote ancestor which is called "atavism." The practical side of purebred stock was shown, and how even purebred stock may be improved because of "variation." The value of crossbred stock for certain purposes was explained, and the folly of breeding from them.

The class was taught the functions of the various organs and the diseases prevalent in them, and the best way to cure them; but better how to maintain their normal condition, health. The parasites that prey upon poultry received their due hearing and condemnation, with specific plans for sure death and extermination.

There were special lectures from some of the best poultrymen in the country, like Incubation, by C. A. Cyphers; Heating Brooders, by Mark Dean; Care and Management, by John Robinson, of *Farm-Poultry*. Artist Sewall pictured the different types, and showed what to look for in each. The last three days the honored president of the American Poultry Association, I. K. Felch, spent with the class. He found the students ready to ask questions at the end of his lectures, and he was ready to talk "chicken" at all times.

The class was also taught the use of tools and how to sharpen them, how to get out the frame and rafters with the use of the square, and plenty of practice driving nails and hitting the wrong one.

Neither was the sanitary question neglected, as there were six practical lessons on drainage, giving careful instructions how to best drain soils and houses. The question of keeping accounts was also thoroughly discussed.

On the last Saturday the class was instructed how to cook and serve poultry. It is a branch of the poultry business which the poultry press ought to further. If poultry was scientifically cooked there would be more eaten, but because it is made tough, and the fine flavor is extracted in the cooking, it is not on the table as often as it otherwise would be.

Every morning, noon and night, found the incubator cellar bring off 50 per cent hatches, which is up to the average, according to the testimony of all who would commit themselves. Practice was also given in mixing feed, and feeding about 800 head of poultry. This brought them very closely in contact with the manager, Mr. Salter, and he gave a satisfactory answer to almost any question that came up regarding any particular breed, and its special care and management.

Beside teaching many valuable and specific fundamental principles and truths, they gave practice in applying them, and also taught to look and think for themselves, but to find the truth and not to seek to prove a theory. The class feel that their studies have just begun, that they have been started and directed upon a course that is to last as long as life continues.

The *American Fancier*, in a recent issue says: "Uncle Mike Boyer editorially in A FEW HENS extends the following invitation to Editor Holmes of the *Poultry Monthly*:

'Hadn't Editor Holmes better try the piazza, the hammock and the pipe himself, some day the coming summer? We would try to make his visit pleasant.'

Brother Holmes would be royally treated by the hospitable Boyer, and we advise our Albany friend to take a week off and enjoy himself at Hammonton, N. J. There is no better time than the small fruit season, especially when strawberries are ready for market. Should, however, Brother Holmes postpone his visit until August, we strongly advise him to look out for those famous Jersey mosquitoes and green backed flies that Uncle Mike and Capt. Doherty introduced to us about eight years ago."

Brother Holmes had better hurry up, for Dreyv now writes that he will be here, and we can only spare one pipe and one Hammock at a

time. Hammonton is a famous place for editors at this season of the year. It was only a few years ago that Editor Cloud, of the *Poultry News*, had a great egg problem solved in this section—he will tell you all about it.

I. A. Pritchard, of Clearfield county, Pa., writes: "At present I am in the poultry business on a small scale, having three yards of White Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmans, and Buff Cochins. This I do for pastime, outside of working hours. Since A FEW HENS has been visiting me monthly, I get the cream of what I have been looking for for some time. I am rearranging my yards, the main points for same have been taken from your paper."

John G. Allen, North Carolina, writes: A FEW HENS is a very neat and newsy paper, and you may always count on me for a subscription.

Louis R. Bristol, New York, writes: "A FEW HENS is getting more valuable than ever."

William M. Kerkhoff, New York, writes: "Of the eight poultry papers that come to my desk, A FEW HENS is read the most eagerly."

F. A. Marden, New York, writes: "I can cheerfully say we consider A FEW HENS the 'pure gold' of all poultry literature."

H. W. Cramer, Indiana, writes: "Your A FEW HENS is a great help to me. It is the largest amount done up in the smallest package I have ever received."

Daniel Leopold, Pennsylvania, says he appreciates A FEW HENS very highly.

Mrs. G. F. Opdyke, New York, thinks it is really refreshing to read a poultry paper and not find "points" and special awards crowding out all we must need to know.

A Clark Tuttle, Wisconsin, writes: "We like A FEW HENS. It is just the thing we needed, and hope you may go on increasing its value with each number as you have done so far."

Wm. F. Stroud, New Jersey, writes: "I must add my bit of praise for your ably edited, boiled down bushel of golden information, as found in A FEW HENS. I not only take much pleasure in reading and rereading your paper, but find lots to follow and apply in my own case."

John W. Wolcott, Massachusetts, writes: "I think a great deal of A FEW HENS. It is brief and to the point on all subjects. Little but mighty."

B. F. Wilcox, New York, writes: "I am a reader of A FEW HENS, and like it very much, as it gives hints and advice in short, concise articles, and yet full enough to be fully understood."

The *Western Garden and Poultry Journal* says A FEW HENS is "a little gem in Hencdom."

The sad news reaches us of the death of George W. Marshall, of Taunton, Mass., March 14, 1898. Mr. Marshall was manager of Oakland Farm for a number of years. He was a thorough poultryman, a man well liked in the fraternity, and his loss will be as fully felt in the poultry world, as it will be by the Sharp Brothers.

That valuable journal, *Agricultural Advertising*, Chicago, Ills., devotes its March issue exclusively to the poultry interests. It is replete with illustrations of prominent poultrymen, and sketches of their lives and doings. Frank B. White, the president of the company who publish this magazine, in a private letter to the editor of A FEW HENS, states that much valuable poultry matter has been crowded out of the March number, but which will appear in April, so that, practically, the fraternity will monopolize two issues. Such journals as *Agricultural Advertising* do us a lot of good.

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.*Pointers on Natural Incubation and Brooding—Hints from Years of Experience.***“Cluck!”****“Chick-chick!”****Provide good shade.****Beware of April showers.****Roomy nests are best for sitters.****The tame hen will have tame chicks.****Fight against lice the moment you set the hen.****It is not yet too late to set hens for breeding stock.****The scratching hen is not always the best mother.****Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes make the best mothers.****Be sure to have a cool place for the summer sitting hen.****When the hen starts laying, she is apt to give up her young.****Keep the hen and her young shut up for the first few days.****During a rain storm drive the hen and her young under shelter.****No hen should be given more than a dozen chicks to care for.****During warm weather give fresh drinking water twice a day.****Asiatics make good sitters, but they are too clumsy as mothers.****Throw whole wheat to the hen and her young several times a day.****Dust the sitting hen well before you give her the chicks to raise.****The hen scratching in loose dirt in her coop may get the dirt in the eyes of the chicks, causing blindness.****A good nest for now and summer, is a barrel laid on the side, and placed under a big shade tree. Cover the top of the barrel with Neponset paper, and build a small run in front of the nest so the hen can go out at will.****H. W. C., Indiana, will no doubt find that his weak chicks are due to lack of proper stamina in the breeding stock. Only vigorous, healthy breeders should be used.****If the sitting hens are caged on the nest, have a regular time each day to remove them. Let them dust, eat, drink and clean themselves before forcing them to go back again.****Dip a sponge in kerosene, and then squeeze out the most of the oil. Rub well the feathers of the hen, on the breast and under the wings, do this once a week, and you will be doing effective work in keeping lice at bay.****Pointers on Food and Feeding.***Onions for Health—An Experience in Feeding—A Batch of Valuable Hints.***Beware of sour food.****Keep the troughs clean.****Three meals a day are enough.****Round pebbles make poor grit.****Hulled or clipped oats are best.****Feed all the green food you can get.****Keep the feed troughs out of the sun.****Sharp gravel is an excellent article of grit.****Clover hay is nearly a balanced ration for hens.****Sieve the cracked corn and feed the fine stuff in the mash.****We are making tests with Animal Meal, and so far are well pleased.****Dyspeptic fowls never knew what it was to scratch for their grain.****Govern the nature of the food according to the condition of the bowels.****Never allow soft food to remain in the troughs from one meal to another.****Drop whole corn from the whole grain feed. Warm weather is at hand.****Hens and pullets in one flock means overfed hens and underfed pullets.****About one pound of green bone, C. H. S. will find to be right for his sixteen hens.****C. H. S., New Jersey, will find that it costs one dollar a year to properly feed a hen.****F. C. W., Vermont, can feed charcoal in the morning mash. It is one of the best preventatives of indigestion.****Dumping grain in one spot means too much for the bullies of the flock, and not enough for the more timid ones.****Mrs. W. A. R., Massachusetts, should crush the charcoal fine that she mixes in the soft food. Charcoal can be fed in this way every other day, about a teaspoonful to a quart of mash.****Feeding three times a day is often enough, and then the noon meal should be only half the quantity of grain given at night. W. W. K., Honeoye Falls, N. Y., is overfeeding in forcing a ration on the fowls four times a day.****The *Fanciers' Monthly* says: "Onions are one of the very best vegetable to feed raw to poultry. Some poultrymen give each pen of fowls a raw onion every day, and say while they practice this they have never had a sick fowl."****W. H. Child, Pennsylvania, writes: I have been so impressed with Jacobs' idea of overfeeding that we have been afraid of getting the hens too fat. When they began to drop off laying this month we got to worrying over it, and tried to find the cause. We thought we were feeding about right, but finally concluded to increase the morning mash, and decrease the grain ration. In a very few days the egg production increased materially, not for one day only, but day after day, so that with twenty-five more hens than last year, we got 50 per cent more eggs than last February, and the increase was all in the last ten days. The pens of twelve get and eat up greedily two quarts of mash—one-third cut clover, one-third bran and one-third American Poultry Food.****Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.***Reasons for Disease—Hints on Treatment for Heavy Breathing, Canker, Colds and Diarrhoea in Chicks—War on Lice.***Reasons for disease:**

- Lice,
- Filth,
- No grit,
- Overfat,
- Sour food,
- Leaky roofs,
- Lack of exercise,
- Crowded quarters,
- Cracks in the wall,
- Exposure to hot suns,
- Cold houses in winter,
- Hot houses in summer,
- Irregularity in feeding,
- Damp houses and runs,
- Not enough bulky food,
- Impure drinking water,
- Poorly ventilated houses,
- Exposure to bad weather,
- Too much heating food in summer.

Liver disease shows itself in lameness.**It is not roup if there is no foetid smell.****Sudden death means apoplexy, due to overfat.****It is not cholera where there is an absence of great thirst.****Bred for Heavy Weight.** Light Brahmans. Eggs \$1.25 per 15. Only a limited number of sittings will be sold. Also Bird Dog Pups for sale. J. D. STAPLES, Huntsville, Miss.**Buff Plymouth Rocks.****My Buffs are a good solid color throughout and prolific layers. Also Buff Leghorns and Black Minorca of the best strains.****EGGS FOR HATCHING, \$1.00 PER 15.****HOMER F. KEGARIES, Roaring Spring, Pa.****All remedies fail so long as the sick fowls are infested with lice.****Short cut tobacco stems in the nest is a good preventative of lice.****Do some extra work to prevent disease instead of hunting up receipts for cure, says *Farm Journal*.****Salt water forced into the nests and every nook and corner of the building, is recommended for lice.****The heavy feeding of boiled potatoes, cabbage and meat, is causing the yellow droppings in W. W. K.'s (Honeoye Falls, N. Y.) fowls.****Homeopathic tincture of podophylloë, twenty drops in a quart of drinking water, for two days, is recommended for diarrhoea in chicks.****G. S. B., New Hampshire, will find the homeopathic aconite pellets excellent for colds in fowls. About six pellets in a quart of drinking water.****It is reported that a bad case of canker in the mouth was cured by removing the pins, syringing the mouth out with strong castile soap and water, and applying pulverized borax to the places affected.****Heavy breathing while on the roost at night, can be quickly relieved by giving a teaspoonful of glycerine, to which is added four drops of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment. Repeat dose for two or three nights.****EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Bred for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.****White Wonders. Utility breeders' fowl. Eggs \$2 per set; 3 sets, \$5. A. L. Merrill, Auburn, Me.****Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalians and Light Brahmans.****CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.****EMPIRE STATE BROODERS are best. Cir. free. W. H. CROZIER, Hall's Corners, N. Y.****The Dighton Poultry Yards. Barred Plymouth Rocks, Brown Egg strain. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting. A. A. SIMMONS, P. O. Box, 104, Dighton, Mass.****JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa. Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.****WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Some of them non setters. At Hartford, Jan., '98, entered seven birds. They won 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$5 per 39. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.****CUT CLOVER HAY \$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10. Best on the market. Send for circular. WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.****3 BUSINESS BREEDS. B. Lang., W. Wy., Barred P. Rocks, Thoroughbred stock. Eggs \$1.00—13; \$1.50—26; \$4.00—100. "Few Hens" one year free with each order. B. Lang. c'k's. \$2. Write for description. S. W. Johnson, Deering Centre, Me.****White Plymouth Rock EGGS FOR HATCHING.****HANCOCK & CHILD, - - Salem, N. J.****EGGS FOR HATCHING. From hens that are bred to lay eggs as well as to take prizes in the show pen. B. P. Rocks, White Leghorns. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$5.00 per hundred. T. T. HIBBEN, McKeesport, Pa.****White, Buff and Brown****S. C. LEGHORNS. Thoroughbred Stock. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. O. J. WAID, Palmer, Mass.****W. H. WIGHT, 538 Wash. St., Hudson, N. Y. I have for twelve years been a breeder of choice, strong, healthy, pure white, low comb, bright orange leg White Plymouth Rocks exclusively. Farm raised Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per sitting; two sittings, \$2.****SNOW WHITE P. ROCKS. Females bred from prize winning stock, mated to superb cockerels from 200-egg a year birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 13. A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilcad, Conn.****PURE-BRED PLYMOUTH ROCK EGGS \$1.00 for 15; \$1.75 for thirty. Orders booked any time. J. A. YOST, Little Sioux, Iowa.****B. P. ROCKS. Prolific layers of large brown egg. Coburn-Hunter strain. Bred for business. Eggs \$1 per 15; \$1.50 per 30. Satisfaction guaranteed. E. W. HARRIS, No. Acton, Mass.****H. A. STANLEY, South Carver, Mass. Breeder of Prize Winners S. C. Brown and Buff Leghorns. Eggs \$1 per 15. Pekin Duck Eggs \$1 per 11. Satisfaction guaranteed.**

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Pointers from Experience—Even Application of Heat—Cooper's Four Points for Success—Introduction of Artificial Incubation in America.

Fill the lamps in the evening.

Use a new wick for every hatch.

Turn the eggs every twelve hours.

Never use oil of less than 150° test.

Keep the incubators out of draughts.

Keep the machine out of the sunlight.

The incubator chicks do not inherit lice.

The moisture problem is solved by the air cell.

It is a mistake to help chicks out of the shell.

Duck eggs decay rapidly; have them as fresh as possible.

Do not add moisture when the air cells of the eggs are small.

Don't trim the wick; scrape the charred part off with a match.

Every day shift the trays from one section of the machine to the other.

Have the regulator adjusted at 100 degrees before putting in the eggs.

Good eggs and a good thermometer are as necessary as a good incubator for a good hatch.

A chick too weak to free itself from the shell will not have much strength after it is out.

A bad scent in a machine of duck eggs is a warning that one of them is decaying. Look out for it.

When the temperature in the incubator runs down, while the eggs are hatching, the chicks are apt to stick fast to the shell.

G. H. S., Vermont, can secure an egg tester for 35 cents, postpaid, by addressing Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa.

Cooper says the four points of success with incubators are, 1, even temperature of 103°; 2, fresh air; 3, air cell one-fourth to one-fifth the contents of the shell; 4, cooling.

Owing to the thickness of the shell, it generally takes a Brahma or a Cochin egg two or three days longer to hatch than a white-shelled one. This is true with both incubators and hens.

H. S. Thompson, in *Farm-Poultry*, gives this pointer: Cut two narrow cardboard strips for each of your egg trays. Write or print "Night" on one and "Morning" on the other. Tack each one to the sides of the tray that show through the glass door. When turning your eggs see that the trays are shifted around so that the sign "Night" shows at night, and "Morning" in the morning. This will insure the even application of heat, which is so important.

John M. Kerr, Columbus, Ohio, writes *A FEW HENS* as follows: "I came to be one of the parties who introduced in the country the art of hatching chicks by steam. Over sixty years ago a friend of mine accompanied Prof. Koch, of St. Louis, Mo., to London, England, with the bones of a mastodon, and had them on exhibition at the Picadilla. During that time a machine was introduced for hatching chickens, called at that time an *Eccoloian*. When my friend returned home, he brought a sketch of the machine, and in due time we built one and it proved a success. The greatest trouble was it required attention night and day. Since then great improvements have been made in this country, and the name changed to *incubator*.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Choice Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

L. A. B., Maine, will find the scratching shed houses just the thing for his climate.

F. R. P., Texas, is informed that the Guelders have passed out of existence years ago.

In crossing White Leghorns and Light Brahmans for eggs and broilers, H. E. C., California, should use the Leghorn male.

Neither an all-egg variety, nor yet an all-meat variety is best for the farm, says *Farm Journal*. Combine them. Get an all-purpose fowl.

L. A. P., Pennsylvania, is informed that the Felch and Hartuest strains of Light Brahmans are considered leaders in egg production and general utility qualifications.

Mrs. W. A. R., Massachusetts, will give her hen house plenty of ventilation during the summer by having a wire screen placed over the open window at night.

L. A. P., Pennsylvania, is informed that, to a certain extent, tar paper is a help in protecting the poultry house from lice, but it must not be relied upon altogether.

F. D. P., New York, can get rid of the dampness in his poultry house by having a double wall, with heavy lining paper tacked on the studing. This gives an air space between the two walls.

If a cat catches chickens, says *Farm Journal*, tie one of her victims about her neck. Fasten it securely, for she will make incredible efforts to get rid of it. Be firm, and the cat is cured, and will never again desire to touch a chicken or bird.

Louis F. Swift, of Swift & Co., the meat packers, bought 172 acres of land for \$10,000, at Lake Forest, Ills., for the purpose of erecting a large poultry plant. A three-story building will be erected, and the killing and dressing of poultry will be conducted on a gigantic scale. This same company will also locate a similar plant at St. Joseph, Mo., where they have secured 140 acres for that purpose.

The only way to get rid of egg eating is to kill the guilty hens. Neglect to do this will teach the others the habit. In order to discover the guilty ones, Mrs. G. F. O., New York, should pen one hen at a time alone in a house where there is a nest in which is placed an egg. Leave the hen there all day. If by night the egg has not been eaten, keep her separated from the rest and try another, and so on until you have found the guilty ones. When hens are too fat they are apt to lay soft shelled eggs which break in the nest and make a tempting bite for them. Craving for more they are apt to make an attack on the next egg laid.

Farmer Slowgo, in *Baltimore Sun*, says: "Deacon, I heerd Ike Jones make an expression t'other day which set me ter thinkin'. He was talking about how some men got along with raising chickens and how some men didn't. Sez he, boys—he allers says boys, no matter who he's talking to—sez he, 'everything's a business, and if yer want ter get up to the top, yer got ter start low down and work yer way. If yer try ter start in ther middle, by and by you'll fall back and have to take a new start lower down, anyway. So it's best to start right ther first time. When a feller thinks there's big profits in chicken-raisin', and that it's an Easy street cinch—well, he will soon change his mind after he's tried it. There's no use for a 50-hen man to fool his time away with 300 hens!'"

A N UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmans, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT,
PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

AM. DOM. C. I. Games, S. C. W. Leghorns. 15 eggs for \$1.00.
W. D. MCNAUGHTON, Tompkins, Pa.

S. C. BL. MINORCAS. Northup strain, choice, carefully mated br'dg. stock. Prolific layers. Eggs \$2 pr. setting; two, \$3. G. F. Barker, St. Albans, Vt.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from Barred Plymouth Rock that are bred for eggs from year to year. No other breed. \$1 per 15; \$5 per 100.
Wm. WATMORE, Lenola (Maple Shade P. O.) N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Incubator eggs \$3.00 per 100. Breeding pens \$1.00 per 15.
Address, SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

LIGHT BRAHMAS. Felch strain, large size, fine shape and color, heavy leg and toe feathering, extra fine layers. Eggs from choicest matings \$1.00 per 13. Fair hatch guaranteed.

F. S. HAXTON, Oakfield, N. Y.

R. C. W. LEGHORN Eggs, 75 cts. for 15; \$1 for 30. Five B. Minorcas, 75c. ea. Good stock. Poultry farm for sale. Mrs. S. RIDER, Maryland, N. Y.

RAISE QUAILS. One to two thousand dollars a year easily made. Send 25 cents for book explaining everything; also where to obtain fine domestic birds. C. GROSS, Bebra, Mo.

35 Thoroughbred B. P. Rock Cockerels for sale at \$1.50 each. B. P. R. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Buff Cochin, Partridge Cochin, and Light Brahma eggs, \$2.00 per 13. Dr. H. Somerville, Chest Springs, Pa.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.



All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail, - - - 25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry, " - - - 25 "
Broilers for Profit, " - - - 50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor, " - - - 50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year, - - - 25 "
Total, \$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.) New Jersey.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorns. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Hahman, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

FOR SALE. WHITE WYANDOTTE EGGS. \$1.50 per 13; \$4 per 40. WM. RULLMANN, Annapolis, Md.

EGGS for Hatching. Pure-bred B. P. Rocks, B. M'n'r's and W. Wyand't's. Farm raised prolific laying stock. \$1 per 13. E. C. German, Fort Plain, N. Y.

IT'S EASILY HANDLED
A CHILD OPERATES
THE PALACE INCUBATOR

Notes in Passing—Continued.

Clean out the hen house every morning.

A farm without poultry is a financial mistake.

A careful poulterer makes a successful market man.

The poultry crop is affected less by seasons than any other crop on the farm.

Note the "utility" articles in the very papers that are calling utility men cranks.

"A few hens do not require as much air and feed as a steer," says *Poultry Farmer*.

The poultry world is made up of standard-bred, thoroughbreds, half-breeds and scrubs.

The utility demand will improve the thoroughbred fowl and not jeopardize it in any way.

Mindfulness of the small things will make one able to meet trouble while it is still brewing.

A pound of naphthalene dissolved in a gallon of coal oil, makes an excellent lice paint for the roosts.

Raise and keep all the stock the facilities will allow, but do not overcrowd. That is the dauber lie.

Sheridan's Condition Powder is a good "spring medicine" for the hens. Like Hood's is for "that tired feeling."

Mr. Careless's hens roost on the trees. They lay in summer—"after the heat of the sun has thawed out the ovaries."

The work of the fancier and that of the market-man are of a different nature altogether. No one can "serve two masters."

Hens in confined quarters must be made to exercise. A failure to enforce this rule will prove fatal to the health and egg crop.

The ideal poultry farm, says the *American Agriculturist*, has a stream of fresh water running through it, with rolling banks, light dry soil and plenty of shade.

It is claimed that if feathers were cut from hens before scalding (leaving stubs on the fowl), very nice pillows could be made, equal if not superior to geese feathers.

Fifty fowls well-cared for, says *Maine Farmer*, will pay more profit than 500 half-cared for. That is rather sweeping, yet there is much truth in it. There are so many small matters that must be looked after.

Eggs have hatched better this season, according to reports, all over the country, than they have for some years. No reason is assigned unless it is that the mild winter has induced the fowls to be more busy outdoors.

A hen that will score high as an egg producer or as a table fowl is more desirable to many people than one scoring high in standard points and decidedly more useful, is the opinion of *Texas Farm and Ranch*.

While a market poultry farm can legitimately engage in the sale of eggs for hatching, and fowls for breeders, it cannot honestly make such sales on any other source than utility—fine carcasses and good egg records.

Combinations are becoming more popular in poultry farming. Each farm should have a specialty—be it eggs, broilers, roasters or ducklings—but to a certain extent, each farm should dabble a little in each branch.

You may like saw dust on the poultry house floor, and on the brooder platform. We don't, says *Farm Journal*. Very fine, dry hardwood dust is useful as a drier and absorbent under the perches, but dry earth is better.

The *American Agriculturist Handbook* and Almanac has been received. It is a regular cyclopedia of progress and events, a guide to markets and prices. It is a treasury of statistics for farm or home, office or factory.

B. F. Ball, Connecticut, writes A FEW HENS that his hens laid 7,523 eggs in March, worth \$134.47. Up to March 1 he had 404 hens, 38 of which were setting. Mr. Ball occupies but two acres of land. Last year he secured \$905 for his eggs.

James Denison, in *Ohio Poultry Journal*, says: "Perhaps I am a little radical on this crossing business, but really I do not think it necessary to go beyond the pure bred varieties for any utility fowl you may want for either laying purposes, broilers or roasters."

During seven months, ended January 31, imports of eggs were limited to 110,000 dozen, compared with 50,000 dozen a year earlier. Exports meanwhile have increased heavily to 1,770,000 dozen compared with only 243,000 dozen corresponding seven months a year ago.

Editor Braden hits the nail on the head when he says: Let us not make the mistake of thinking that pure bred poultry and "standard bred" stock are one and all the same. A "standard bred" fowl is a pure bred fowl, but a disqualified thoroughbred is not a standard bred bird.

If your hens have not panned out the eggs just as fast as they ought during the past winter, learn the difficulty and prepare to remedy it before another winter, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. Experience is of but little avail if we do not profit by it. It is a good rule never to make the same mistake twice.

Recent Experiments at the Utah station indicate that the percentage of fertility was highest with the early hatched pullets and lowest with the old hens, though the results are not conclusive. The fertility of eggs averaging five days old, was 300 per cent higher than of eggs averaging twenty-two days old.

H. W. Collingwood, in *Rural New-Yorker*, very wisely says: "I don't care to buy any more hens unless I know what their female ancestors have done. The dairy cow and the laying hens are creatures of nerve and inherited habit. They are not mere machines taking in food at one end and rolling out milk or eggs at the other."

Canada's egg exports last year amounted to 7,477,000 dozen, with a value of \$978,000, chiefly to the United Kingdom; nearly 500,000 dozen of the total first named were shipped to the United States, says the *American Agriculturist*. Canada's imports of eggs were 311,000 dozen, most of these going across our northern border into Manitoba and British Columbia.

Old buildings do not seem to have as much moisture in the walls, thus becoming white with frost, as buildings constructed of new lumber, says *Farm and Fireside*. When lumber is seasoned the grain is closer and less moisture penetrates, but new lumber, especially that containing much sap, will show moisture on the walls.

HATCH Strong



Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the *Pullets to lay* when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching mix in their food every other day

Sheridan's Powder.

It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs and strong healthy chickens. Persons who *succeed best* in keeping Poultry, commence with little chicks; giving twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose. Sold by druggists, grocers, feed dealers or by mail. Single pack 25 cts. Large can \$1.20. Six cans, \$5. Exp. paid L.S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EUREKA NEST BOX
It tells you Which Hens Lay. It is Easy to Build.

From Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1898.—The idea of your Eureka Nest Box seems to be a very good one. Yours truly, H. H. WING.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, formerly of R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "I certainly think your nest box is the most practical and feasible of anything I have seen."

I SELL THE PLANS.

A. J. SILBERSTEIN, Prop. HART NEST YARDS, Framingham, Mass.

WHITE AND SILVER WYANDOTTE EGGS.

\$2.00 FOR 13.
WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

It has been said by Tegetmeier and other European authorities, that practical poultry farms are a failure in their country, says *Iowa Homestead*. It does not surprise us, for we have yet to see a purely market poultry farm succeed in this country where strictly standard bred birds were used. Again, we say, breed for utility, and stick to the standard requirements as closely as possible, without injuring the meat and egg qualities.

The *Cotton Planters Journal*, in a recent issue, says: "We of the South have certainly all the inducements nature can offer for the successful carrying on of the poultry business, our climate and soil possessing all that is necessary. We can dispense with artificial heat in winter, which is found absolutely indispensable for the north. We have also green feed nearly the year round, which is quite an item as it is an important part of the diet. We must reduce the cotton acreage and raise chickens."

The American White Plymouth Rock Club has been organized with U. R. Fitch, Hope, Indiana, President; Oscar W. Gionlun, Elgin, Illinois, Vice-President; Frank Heck, New Albany, Indiana, Secretary. White Plymouth Rocks are becoming more popular every year. As a market fowl they are strictly first-class. All breeders of White Plymouth Rocks are urged to unite themselves with the organization, as plans are now being perfected which will make membership very beneficial and of great advantage to each individual member. The membership fee is one dollar, and should be sent to Frank Heck, Secretary and Treasurer, New Albany, Indiana.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

Barred, White, Buff. Large, strong, vigorous, thoroughbred birds. Heavy laying strains. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$5 per 100. Wilton Brook Farm, Easthampton, Mass.

47 Chicks from 50 eggs. A customer just reported the above record. Barred and White P. Rocks, Light Brahmans. A few settings from same as above were hatched from, \$1.00 per setting. Hillside Poultry Yards, (Box 439), Wollaston, Mass.

BEAUTY and EGGS

is the combination.

WHITE WYANDOTTES,

S. C. BLACK MINORCAS.

Superior stock bred from the best strains. None better. Good hatch guaranteed. Eggs \$1.25 per 15, after April 15. Write for records.

GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

TO MAKE HENS

lay, feed them properly. A hen is a machine for turning food into eggs. How to get the most out of the machine is told in the literature which we mail free to all poultry keepers. Send your name and address.

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,
Bay City, Mich.

"Best Liver Pill Made."

Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

THIS PAPER will cost you only Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

EUREKA NEST BOX

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WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

The Southern Poultry Journal sports a new dress. The Pocket Poultryman hath "gone where the woodbine twineth."

The Eastern Poultryman, Milltown, Maine, is a new one. It starts out well.

The Bartle Poultry Supply Co., Oxford, N. Y., are again manufacturing egg boxes.

The March issue of Agricultural Advertising was devoted entirely to the poultry industry.

Samuel Cabot, 70 Kilby street, Boston, Mass., is out with a new price list of creosote shingle stains.

Arthur & Hillis, McFall, Mo., are offering to poultrymen an insect exterminator in the way of a sprayer.

W. H. Crosier, Hall's Corners, N. Y., is placing a new brooder upon the market to be known as the Empire-State.

D. W. Babcock, an old-time poultryman, formerly of Dansville, N. Y., is now manager of the Edgewood Farm Nursery, Cromwell, Conn.

C. Fred La Mout, 115 Spruce street, St. Louis, Mo., is offering a poultry food and granulated egg shell that should command a large sale.

The Winchester Box Manufacturing Co., Baldwinsville, Mass., are placing an excellent box on the market for shipping eggs for hatching.

The Walnut Publishing Co., Boston, Mass., are about printing a third edition of their book "How to Make \$500 a Year Keeping Poultry."

Cloud's Poultry News, Kennett Square, Pa., begins Volume IX with the March issue. It is one of the brightest and most interesting of our exchanges.

The Newark Poultry Supply Co., 385 Market street, Newark, N. J., have just issued a handsome catalogue which should be in the hands of all interested in poultry culture.

Shoemaker's Poultry Annual for 1898, has been received. It is a handsome catalogue of all the leading breeds. Send for a copy, enclosing stamp, to C. C. Shoemaker, Freeport, Ills.

Those interested in big turkeys, fine chickens, thoroughbred horses, dogs, etc., should send for a catalogue of Emerald Park, Millersburg, Bourbon County, Ky., J. F. Barbee, proprietor.

We have just received a copy of the third edition of "Poultry Architect," published by H. A. Kuhns, Box 400, Atlanta, Ga. This is undoubtedly the best work on the subject ever issued.

Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. Y., has originated a strain of strictly business White Wyandottes. They are a combination of Sanborn, Mack, Smith, Knapp, Mount and Hunter stock. See his advertisement.

Those interested in Barred Plymouth Rocks should send 25 cents to the Reliable Poultry Journal, Quincy, Ills., for a copy of their book on that subject. It is by far the most complete work on that subject yet published.

Niagara Farm, W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y., have issued a new circular. This is the largest concern in western New York, and those interested in fine poultry and poultry supplies should send for a copy.

The Geo. H. Lee Co., Exeter, Neb., suffered a severe loss in a conflagration in that city. But as considerable stock was saved their patron's orders will not be delayed. This firm manufacture a first-class louse killer. See advertisement in last issue.

The Des Moines Incubator Company, Des Moines Iowa, have just received a high endorsement from the famous Chatham Fields Farm, Chicago. They say the Des Moines is the most perfect machine they ever operated, and enclosed order for nine more machines.

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Montgomery Co., Pa., kindly remembered A FEW HENS experimental farm with a sitting of White Wyandotte eggs from two of his best pens. Mr. Child pays special attention to heavy laying and brown color of shells, when mating his flocks.

H. C. Koons, Rochester, N. Y., writes: "I, as judge of pigeons at the Great Rochester Show, January 10th to 15th, at which the H-O Co.'s

Scratching Feed was exclusively used for feeding the pigeons, wish to say it is in my opinion a practical food. I heartily recommend it as such, and in future I shall use it entirely in lofts."

D. J. Lambert, Apponaug, R. I., writes: "We have just given H-O Poultry Feed about a month's trial, feeding it exclusively in mashes to Barred Plymouth Rocks. It has not only helped to put the stock in fine condition, but the pullets are turning us more eggs than we ever gathered at this season of the year (November)."

Chicken Fixings, No. 21, published by Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass., has been received. Mr. Young has been 30 years in the business of breeding poultry and selling poultry supplies of all kinds. *Chicken Fixings* is not only a complete catalogue, but a regular wit and humor publication. We advise A FEW HENS readers to send Mr. Young a stamp for a copy.

We have tested on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, a sample of the meat scraps offered for sale by J. E. Steveuson, Columbus, N. J. It is composed chiefly of lean meat and small bones, collected from the butcher's trimmings, thoroughly cooked dry and ground in a Maun cutter. There is a great deal more lean meat in it than in the average commercial scraps.

The H-O Company, New York city, announce an advance of \$5.00 per ton, or 25 cents per sack, in the price of their scratching feed for poultry and pigeons, the advance taking effect at once. The recent sharp advances in the prices of grain necessitates this higher price; notably the present price of wheat, which costs them nearly two cents per pound, and of which there is a large proportion in this feed.

On the farm of A FEW HENS we are testing F. P. C. Chick Manna, manufactured by F. P. Cassel, Lansdale, Pa. Chick Manna is intended as the first food, and exclusively fed for the first ten days of the chick's life. Slightly moistened with milk it is put in the proper condition for feeding, and the youngsters pitch into it with fine grace. Further mention will be made after given a more thorough trial.

WHITE P. ROCKS. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting; 3 sittings \$2.25; \$4 per 100. Pure-bred stock. H. L. WIMPENNEY, 2d, Edgartown, Mass.

UTILITY AND BEAUTY combined in my Black Minorcas and Buff Rocks. Prolific layers; large, healthy, vigorous stock; raised on unlimited range. Eggs in season. FRED. E. PILE, Cleveland, Ohio.

I. K. FELCH & SON,
Box K, Natick, Mass.

**Light Brahma, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,**

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

H. N. HOY is prepared to furnish poultry fanciers with a first-class

CHICKEN AND TURKEY BROODER.

A double decker, with all modern improvements. Capacity from 250 to 300 fowls. It is waterproof and best quality of material used in its construction. When this Brooder is used, small chicks cannot be taken or injured by rats, weasels, minks, cats, crows and hawks. Brooders at buyer's station, \$6.45.

H. N. HOY, Bellefonte, Pa.

OUR WARRANT
calls for the hatching of 80 per cent. of the
fresh fertile eggs that are placed in our
RELIABLE INCUBATOR
when the instructions
are followed as laid
down. You will under-
stand how it is pos-
sible for us to make
such an unparalleled
guarantee, when you
read our Poultry Guide
and Combined Incubator and Brooder
Catalogue. A book that contains an
immense amount of poultry lore, and of great
value to every poultry fancier. Sent for 10c.
Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co.,
QUINCY, ILLINOIS.

A. J. Hallock, proprietor of Atlantic Farm, Speonk, L. I., N. Y., has just issued a new pamphlet entitled "Money Making Ducks." The book is illustrated with views of a flock of Atlantic Farm Pekins, different sections of the farm, brooder house, etc. While Mr. Hallock's ducks are winners in the show room, they are especially commendable for table use. They are grown to large size, and the flesh is remarkably tender, delicate and palatable. E. De Noyelles, the well-known commissiou merchant of New York city, says Hallock's ducks are among the finest in the market, command the highest prices, and give the best of satisfaction in every way.

"Our trade has been very heavy for this kind of weather," writes A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Company. "In fact, we have had very pleasant weather all over the country hence all the old hens over the United States, I thought, would go to setting, and it would kill the incubator business, but not so with us. We have been receiving as many orders as we ever did, and if it had kept as cold in March as it usually does, our trade would have been much heavier. In the meantime we had all the trade we could take care of, and are now over one hundred machines behind. We are still running full force, and the mails continue to be heavy."

Something New!

Are You Interested in Poultry?

Are You Keeping Poultry for Profit?

Are You a Beginner in Poultry Culture?

A FEW HENS is a new Monthly Poultry Paper, only 25 cents per year. Each issue is filled to overflowing with valuable hints and pointers on Broilers, Roasters, Eggs, Ducks, Geese and Turkeys, Natural and Artificial Incubation, Foods and Feeding, Diseases and Remedies, besides a host of other Practical matter.

It is edited by MICHAEL K. BOYER, who is devoting his time to editing this paper, and conducting experiments on his poultry farm—all of which are fully noted in each issue of A FEW HENS. These experiments are very valuable for the beginner.

Can a Man Make a Living on Two Acres of Land is a subject that is being dealt with practically. Mr. Boyer, on his farm, is taking the place of the beginner, and gradually building up a plant on two acres, that is to yield an income sufficient to comfortably sustain a family.

Those contemplating going into the poultry business on a small scale, will find these articles of untold value. They show just exactly what steps must be taken, what obstacles will be met, and how to avoid the stumbling blocks.

Better send on twenty-five cents at once, and secure the paper for one full year.

For forty cents, will send you A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of Mr. Boyer's book, "A Living from Poultry," price 25 cents. Or for same price, the paper one year, and book "Profitable Poultry Farming," price 25 cents.

For sixty cents, will send A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of the book, "Broilers for Profit," price 50 cents. Or for the same price, the paper one year, and the book, "Farm-Poultry Doctor," price 50 cents.

For one dollar, will send A FEW HENS one year, and all four of the above books, \$1.75 in value, for only \$1.00.

Send cash, stamps or money order.

Order now, and secure full and complete knowledge on poultry raising for profit.

A FEW HENS,

No. 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.